GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:830
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN POK
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of several assurances given by Pakistan for controlling terrorist activities, the transmission towers of terrorists in Pakistan occupied Kashmir are still working; and

(b) if so, the diplomatic efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) Notwithstanding the assertions of the President of Pakistan, committing Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India, communication controls located across the Line of Control and the International Boundary have continued to direct the activities of terrorist groups active in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross border terrorism. In this regard, on the diplomatic front, Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. The matter has also been raised during high level interactions with world leaders, who have expressed strong support for India`s determination to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed, and reject any justification for terrorist violence.

On 21 December 2001, in view of Pakistan`s obvious lack of concern with regard to the terrorist attack on India`s Parliament by two Pak-based groups, Government announced the recall of the High Commissioner from Islamabad and the termination of the Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January 2002.Furthermore, on 27th December, Government announced a reduction in the strength of the respective High Commissions by 50%, a restriction on the movement of officials of the Pakistan High Commission and their families, and a suspension of the facility to overfly Indian airspace granted to Pakistan aircraft or Pakistan airlines. On 31st December Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law who have been given safe haven in Pakistan, for them to be apprehended and handed over to India so that they could be brought to justice for their crimes.